

In the specification:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph at the indicated locations in the specification as originally filed or most recently amended.

Page 11, line 9+ (as amended February 6, 2002):

Turning now to Fig. 2 There is illustrated a part of the process of the invention. The laser beam 10 is scanned along the die surface 13A, so as to melt or "puddle" an area 17 in the surface 13A, along a path corresponding to a desired blade pattern. Upon such melting or puddling, the powder 16A is fed into the area being clad by the laser so that in one pass along the surface 13A as illustrated in Figure ~~13~~ 2, a die blade of half-ellipse cross-sectional dimension is formed. To state another way, powder 16 is fed into the area of the puddle formed in the path by previous heating by the laser beam 10 of the path while heating the path with the laser beam 10. The material of the die body 13 is selected to conform to the desired parameters in the die body for toughness. Ordinary, medium carbon plain steels or medium carbon low alloy steels such as 1045 or 4150 steel, for example, may be used.